

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

PLEASE PASS RODMAN/ADAMS/BORG FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

1. HERewith FULL TEXT JO KRAFT COLUMN, THURSDAY, MARCH 13
WASHPOST, HEADLINED "CONGRESSIONAL MEDDLING".

2. EVENTS ARE NOW MAKING A LIAR OF THE CLAIM THAT
CONGRESSIONAL "MEDDLING" IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS INEVITABLY
YIELDS DISASTER. THANKS TO JUST SUCH MEDDLING, THE
TURKS AND GREEKS ARE ONCE MORE ON THE ROAD TO A CYPRUS
SETTLEMENT.

3. SIMILAR MEDDLING HOLDS OUT PROSPECTS FOR SETTLEMENT
IN CAMBODIA -- AND EVENTUALLY VIETNAM. FOR ONLY THE
CONGRESS -- IT NOW BECOMES CLEAR -- CAN BREAK THE PERVERSE
LOGIC WHEREBY OFFICIALS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH REGULARLY
CAUSE THE UNITED STATES TO BECOME THE PRISONER OF ITS
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ALLIES.

4. TAKE FIRST THE CASE OF CYPRUS. THE CONGRESS CUT OFF MILITARY AID TO TURKEY IN ORDER TO FORCE ANKARA TO COMPROMISE WITH ATHENS ON A CYPRUS SOLUTION.

5. THE PRESIDENT AND ALL HIS MEN HARUMPHEDED ABOUT CONGRES-

SIONAL INTERFERENCE. SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER SPOKE OF AN "UNMITIGATED DISASTER," AND CLAIMED THE MOVE TO CUT OFF AID WOULD ONLY STIFFEN TURKISH RESISTANCE, THEREBY HARMING THE GREEKS. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JAMES SCHLESINGER ALSO SPOKE OF DISASTER, AND WARNED THE TURKS MIGHT BEGIN CUTTING BACK THEIR MILITARY COOPERATION IN WAYS HARMFUL TO THE SECURITY OF EUROPE.

6. IN FACT -- AFTER SOME HUFFING AND PUFFING -- TURKISH AUTHORITIES SAW THAT WASHINGTON MEANT BUSINESS AND THAT THEIR FORCES WOULD SOON BE RUNNING OUT OF SPARE PARTS. ANKARA, IN THESE CONDITIONS, TURNED REASONABLE. SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER WAS RECEIVED THERE TUESDAY. NOW NEGOTIATIONS FOR A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT HAVE BEEN RENEWED AND THE OUTLOOK IS NOT BAD.

7. IN THE CASE OF CAMBODIA, THE ISSUE IS WHETHER TO GRANT \$222 MILLION IN SPECIAL AID FOR FOOD AND AMMUNITION TO THE BELEAGUERED GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT LON NOL.

8. PRESIDENT FORD CLAIMS THERE IS A "MORAL" OBLIGATION TO HELP. THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE IMPLIES THAT TO ABANDON CAMBODIA WOULD ADVERTISE AMERICAN WEAKNESS TO THE WORLD. THE STATE DEPARTMENT INDICATES THAT IT FAVORS NEGOTIATIONS AND COULD GET SOMETHING GOING IF THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND WERE IMPROVED AND IT COULD FIND SOMEBODY TO SPEAK FOR THE COMMUNIST INSURGENTS, OR KHMER ROUGE. PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY RON NESSEN INTIMATES THAT CONGRESSIONAL ACTION WOULD MAKE POSSIBLE NEGOTIATIONS, AND AT THE SAME TIME ASSERTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF LON NOL IS "LEGITIMATE."

9. THESE ARGUMENTS ARE MOSTLY NONSENSE. THERE IS NO UNCLASSIFIED

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REASON TO BELIEVE THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT CAN EVER RIGHT THE MILITARY BALANCE TO THE POINT OF MAKING A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT POSSIBLE. THE KHMER ROUGE REBELS HAVE AT LEAST AS GOOD A CLAIM TO LEGITIMACY AS LON NOL, AND THEY ARE FAR FROM BEING UNKNOWN FIGURES.

10. THE CONGRESS, FORTUNATELY, HAS READ THE SITUATION WELL. INSTEAD OF TRYING TO PROP UP THE SATELLITE REGIME

FOR ONE MORE GO AT A POSITION OF STRENGTH, SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES UNDERSTAND THAT THE RIGHT WAY TO A SETTLEMENT IS THROUGH A CHANGE IN THE REGIME IN PHNOM PENH. WITH LON NOL GONE AND THE STRUGGLE TO ACHIEVE POLITICAL ADVANTAGE ABANDONED, ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR AN ORDERLY TRANSFER OF POWER. THE RESULT, FAR FROM BEING A DISASTER FOR THE UNITED STATES, WILL BE A LEFT-WING GOVERNMENT LIKELY TO AGGRAVATE EVEN FURTHER THE ABUNDANT

STRAINS WORKING AMONG HANOI, PEKING AND MOSCOW.

11. TWO LEADING SENATORS -- THE MARYLAND REPUBLICAN CHARLES MATHIAS AND THE ILLINOIS DEMOCRAT ADLAI STEVENSON III -- HAVE SEEN THAT THE SAME LOGIC APPLIES TO VIETNAM. THEY ARE READYING LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD CUT OFF AID TO SAIGON UNLESS THE REGIME OF PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU MOVED TOWARD FREE ELECTIONS AND A MORE BROADLY BASED GOVERNMENT. ONLY IN THAT WAY CAN PRESSURE BE APPLIED TO GEN. THIEU TO SET UP THE KIND OF REGIME WHICH COULD ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT.

12. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT THE CONGRESS OUGHT TO MEDDLE INDISCRIMINATELY AND TRY TO FINE-TUNE ALL FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES. ON THE CONTRARY, RECENT EXPERIENCE TEACHES US THAT THERE IS A DEFINABLE CONDITION WHERE CONGRESSIONAL MEDDLING WORKS.

13. THAT IS THE SITUATION WHERE THE UNITED STATES HAS BECOME THE PRISONER OF A CLIENT STATE, WHERE AMERICAN OFFICIALS HAVE BECOME PERSONALLY OVERCOMMITTED TO ALLIED REGIMES, WHERE THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH IS BURDENED BY PAST COMMITMENTS TO THE POINT OF BEING UNWILLING TO REEXAMINE THEM IN THE LIGHT OF CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES.

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14. IN THOSE SITUATIONS, THE CONGRESS, WITH ITS EGO UNINVOLVED AND ITS FACE IN NO NEED OF SAVING, HAS A WISDOM WHICH THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH DOES NOT. IT CAN GET THE PRESIDENT OFF THE HOOK, AND ITS MEDDLING WORKS. (END TEXT). INGERSOLL

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